

R E M A R K S

Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found, for example, in original claims 8, 11 and 12. Additional support can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 1-2 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 19 can be found in claim 15 and in Examples 1-3. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. '102(b) and 103

The rejections under Ohnishi are respectfully traversed.

Ohnishi adds fluorosulfuric acid (HSO_3F) or SO_2F_2 to sulfuric acid in order to generate HF by reaction with water molecules which are present in the solution. These are used “instead of using hydrofluoric acid.” (col. 2, lines 47-52). Thus, Ohnishi teaches away from the claimed invention which does use, e.g., HF. Ohnishi further compares its F-containing, specific compounds against HF and finds the latter allegedly unsuitable for its process. In contrast, in the claimed process for removing sidewall residue, HF works very satisfactorily as demonstrated in the examples. (Ohnishi’s discussion of its Fig. 3 mentions a comparison where a 1% solution of HF is added to a liquid mixture of sulfuric acid and H_2O_2 in a 5:1 ratio. There is no way to tell what the ratio of HF to H_2SO_4 is.)

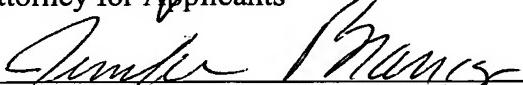
Thus, the reference fails to teach or suggest a process for removing sidewall residue after drywall etching with a solution consisting essentially of sulfuric acid, a fluorine containing compound which is hydrofluoric acid, ammonium fluoride or an alkali metal fluoride, and hydrogen peroxide where the weight ratio of sulfuric acid to the fluorine containing compound is 10:1 to 700:1.

The claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. However, should the examiner have any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


Anthony Zelano (Reg. No. 27,969)
Attorney for Applicants


Jennifer Branigan (Reg. No. 40,921)

Patent Agent

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1
2200 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 1400
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 812-5305
Internet Address: jbranigan@mwzb.com

Filed: 12 October 2005

jbb:K:\Merck\0000 - 1999\1923\1\reply July 05.doc